

# WESTERN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT



## *CRIME ALERT*

Western Springs, IL – April 8, 2013

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The Western Springs Police Department would like to inform our residents and schools about two related incidents involving suspicious persons occupying a vehicle approaching children that occurred on Saturday, April 6, 2013 at approximately 6:15 p.m., at the 4800 and 4900 blocks of Lawn Avenue in Western Springs.

Both reported incidents involved the same vehicle described as a late model white Chevy Suburban SUV bearing an unknown Illinois registration plate. Witnesses described the driver as a white female in her 20's, dark hair, wearing a dark shirt having a "raspy" voice. There was also a passenger in the front seat described as a white male in his 20's, wearing a black baseball cap and white shirt. During both incidents, the unidentified female drove up to and asked two separate groups of boys that were between the ages of 9 and 14 years, if they wanted candy that she had in the back of the vehicle. Witnesses also indicated that the male passenger appeared to be filming the youths with an "I-phone" type of device, and the female asked one of the groups if they "wanted to film some video."

Police verified there was no actual or attempted physical contact made with any of the children and the offending vehicle immediately left the area. Several responding police units checked the area but were unable to locate the suspicious SUV. The investigation into these incidents remains ongoing.

### **Here are a few safety tips to discuss with your children:**

- Children should always obtain parent's permission before going anywhere.
- Children should never go near someone in a car or truck and should run the other way towards other people if possible.
- Cute animals and candy are just two tricks used by strangers in order to get near a child.
- Children should always obtain parent's permission before accepting money or a gift.
- Children should be instructed to walk with a group. There is safety in numbers.

Residents are asked to be extra observant and to report any and all suspicious vehicles, individuals, or activity to the Western Springs Police Department by either dialing 9-1-1 or 708-246-8540. If you have any questions, please contact the Western Springs Police Department.

*A photograph of a typical late model white Chevy Suburban accompanies this Crime Alert for reference purposes only.*



(Chevy Suburban – not the actual offending vehicle)